

REMARKS

Claims 45 through 49 and 51 through 66 are now pending in the present application. Claims 45 through 48 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 50 has been canceled by this amendment. Detailed amendments to the claims are set forth in the attachment titled "Detailed Amendments to the Claims". Applicants note with appreciation the fact that the Office Action (Action) states that claims 50 through 54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Action objects to an amendment filed 11-21-00 under 35 U.S.C. §132 as introducing new matter to the disclosure. Applicants respectfully submit that no amendment was filed on 11-21-00 as stated by the Action. It is believed, however, that the amendment cited in the Action is that which was actually filed concurrently with the filing of the present application on August 25, 2000. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the amendment is not new matter, and in fact, the specification, as amended, mirrors the specification of the parent application bearing Serial No. 09/075,097, filed May 8, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,565 B1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

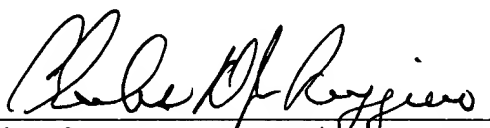
Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,264,488 to Takeuchi et al.

Claims 49, 55, 56, 60, 62 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,880,878 to Himes et al.

Claims 49 and 55 through 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,880,878 to Himes et al.

Claim 49 has been amended to include the feature of claim 50. Therefore, consistent with the Action, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 49, as well as claims 51 through 66, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 49, are allowable. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections, and passage of this application to allowance, is respectfully requested.

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